



WCTFC to host 'Prevent, Recover and Rock Together' at August's First Friday

The Wabash County Tobacco Free Coalition (WCTFC) has planned a special event for August's First Friday celebrations downtown. The "Prevent, Recover, and Rock Together" event was planned for Friday, Aug. 5 "to keep Wabash County aware of the impact illicit drugs and tobacco have on our communities." The nationally-known RALI CARES – Hidden in Plain Sight trailer will be a part of the evening activities. "It is outfitted to look like a teenager's or young adult's bedroom, but it is filled with hidden warning signs of substance misuse.

WACT invites community 'behind the curtain'

After searching for more than two decades, a local arts nonprofit organization is ready to finally show off its new facility to the community. The Wabash Area Community Theater (WACT) will host a public open house in early August to show the transformation of the South Side property, which has been dubbed "The WACTory" by the board. The open house will include guided tours, live entertainment for visitors and a backstage look at the set for WACT's upcoming fall musical, "Guys and Dolls." The event will take place from 6 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 7 at 1620-1640 S. Wabash St. Those who would like to support the facility project may do so by sending a check to Wabash Area Community Theater at P.O. Box 840, Wabash, IN 46992, with "Building" in the memo line. For those who would like to give online, a GoFundMe page titled "WACT Building Fundraiser" has also been created for the project. It can be found on the Wabash Area Community Theater Facebook page or by searching www.gofundme.com. Those who are interested in making a gift, but would like more information, may contact Vanderpool by email at vanderpob@yahoo.com or call 765-661-8206; or contact Board Member Beth Miller by email at beth@wabashmillers.com or by calling 260-568-1128. For more information, visit www.wabashtheater.org or

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Elwood officer, 24, fatally shot during traffic stop; suspect arrested

By MORGAN KELLER  
Chronicle-Tribune Managing Editor

A traffic stop took a tragic turn early Sunday morning when an Elwood Police Officer was fatally shot.

Officer Noah Shahnnavaz, 24, conducted a traffic stop just after 2 a.m. Sunday, July 31 along Indiana 37.

For an unknown reason, the suspect, Carl Ray Webb Boards II, is believed to

have exited the vehicle and fired multiple rounds at Shahnnavaz, striking him at least once before fleeing the scene in the vehicle, according to the Indiana State Police (ISP).

When additional officers arrived on the scene, they administered life-saving measures. An ambulance transported Shahnnavaz to Ascension St. Vincent Mercy in Elwood before he was

later transferred to an Indianapolis hospital by helicopter, where he died.

"A senseless act of violence robbed this young man of the life and career he had ahead of him," Mayor Todd Jones said.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Department located the vehicle just after 2:30 a.m. Boards, authorities said, did not pull over and continued south on State

Road 37. Hamilton County deputies pursued Boards and used a tire deflation device. When the car continued south toward Interstate 69, the Fishers Police Department used the Precision Immobilization Technique to stop the car and take the suspect into custody, authorities said.

Boards is being held in the Hamilton County Jail and has no bond. The prelimi-

nary charges against him are resisting law enforcement, possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, and murder. Boards is the owner of Webb's Cut & Care at 525 S. Washington St. in Marion.

"Shahnnavaz was a five-year veteran of the United States Army and proudly served the Elwood community for the past 11 months," stated

See ELWOOD, page A4

Jim Breuer brings 'Freedom of Laughter Tour' to Wabash

'Saturday Night Live' alum headed to Honeywell Center this weekend

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

"Saturday Night Live" and "Half Baked" star Jim Breuer is set to bring his "freewheeling" stand-up comedy to the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater this weekend.

The radio show host and touring comedian has been a regular on "The Howard Stern Show" and has been named to Comedy Central's "100 Greatest Standups of All Time" list.

But, leave your young children at home.

"This show is for mature audiences," said Honeywell Arts & Entertainment digital marketing manager Kaitlynn Still.

Most seats for the 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 6 show are either \$25 or \$35, with limited premium seating for \$75. Tickets are available by visiting www.honeywellarts.org or calling 260-563-1102.

"I'm going to crush it," said Breuer, during a recent phone interview with the Plain Dealer. "I've never had so much fun in my life. I'm not sure I've ever had so much fun doing stand-up than in the last three or four years. I'm so free up there. And most of its improv. Usually, the first 20



Provided photo

"Saturday Night Live" and "Half Baked" star Jim Breuer is set to bring his "freewheeling" stand-up comedy to the Honeywell Center's Ford Theater this weekend.

minutes or so is kind of off-the-cuff and depending on the energy of the room and how we're doing with one another is how the rest of the set will go. But, I can assure you, most people that are going to come to see that show is going to come back again and again."

Breuer also took the time to discuss his comic beginnings, his movie and television career, his outspoken viewpoints, his faith and more.

Comedic influences

Breuer said Steve Martin was the first stand-up he truly connected with, but his

"Mount Rushmore" of comedy included Richard Pryor, Eddie Murphy, George Carlin and Sam Kinison.

Breuer said of those, Pryor cast the longest shadow over his comedic style.

"(Pryor) was by far the most influential because his delivery is he says and then he acts it out," said Breuer. "And that's what I do. I'm just a storyteller. I was the kid on the corner. I was the kid on the street. I was imitating everyone. I was telling the stories. Doing what I do."

'Live from New York ...'

Breuer is probably best

See BREUER, page A3

Come out and meet 'The Karens' on Thursday

Comedy duo to perform Thursday at Eagles Theatre

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

In the past few years, the term "Karen" has taken on a whole new meaning.

What used to just be a common name has now become a pejorative term for a certain type of woman, namely an unpleasant one who probably wants to speak with your manager.

Now, two comedians named Karen are set on taking back the name and sharing a few laughs in the process.

"Lots of laughter will be on the bill when comedians Karen Mills and Karen Mor-



Provided photo

Karen Morgan, left, and Karen Mills, right, will be performing Thursday at Eagles Theatre.

gan entertain with their own brand of family-friendly humor in this show," said Honeywell Arts & Entertainment digital marketing manager Kaitlynn Still. "Unlike those other insolent 'Karens' you may read about in the news,

the Karens promise an evening of zero toxic behavior and plenty of clever and intelligent humor. Karen Mills, a former All-American basketball player and ovarian cancer survivor, can be heard daily on SiriusXM comedy

channels. Karen Morgan, a former trial attorney, began her comedy career as a finalist on Nick at Nite's 'Search for the Funniest Mom.' Her comedy special, 'Go Dawgs,' airs on Dry Bar Comedy."

The show is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 4 at Eagles Theatre. Tickets are \$15 and \$25 and are available by visiting www.honeywellarts.org or calling 260-563-1102.

During a recent phone interview with the Plain Dealer, Morgan said Wabash will be the start of their "The Karens" tour.

Mills said they both perform separate dates before they combine forces.

Mills said before her comedy career, she played

See KARENS, page A5

Local libraries are now completely fine-free

NMPL removes late charges on overdue DVDs and WiFi hotspots

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Local libraries in Wabash County are now completely fine-free.

On Friday, July 22, North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) adult department manager and marketing coordinator Jeanna Hann said they were "thrilled" to announce that they would cease charging and collecting late fees for overdue DVDs and WiFi hotspots.

"NMPL has not charged late fees for overdue books for years, but the library wanted to make the switch to become completely late fine-free," said Hann. "Patrons will still be charged for any lost or damaged items."

Hann said the change was partially inspired by the American Library Association's (ALA) "Resolution on Monetary Library Fines As A Form of Social Inequity" from January 2019.

"Monetary fines present an economic barrier to access of library materials and

See FINE-FREE, page A4

Learn More Center receives \$10K Dollar General literacy grant

Funds to be used for instruction, materials, food, outreach, recruitment, development

By ROB BURGESS  
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The Dollar General Literacy Foundation recently announced the recipients of approximately \$170,000 in grants to nonprofits in Indiana focusing on adult literacy.

Among those chosen was the Learn More Center in North Manchester and Wabash, which received \$10,000.

"The Learn More Center is thankful to be chosen as one of those organizations," said development officer Gary Montel.

Montel said this "generous" grant will be used for their

See GRANT, page A4



IN BRIEF

Beacon Credit Union announces Wabash, North Manchester Member Appreciation Day

Beacon Credit Union has announced details for the 2022 Member Appreciation Day, according to community relations specialist Kelly Stuber.

“This year will mark 91 years of serving their member-owners,” said Stuber. “Beacon is looking forward to showing its appreciation by celebrating its member-owners with themed events at each location.”

The Wabash and North Manchester Member Centers will be celebrating with member-owners on Friday, Aug. 5, during regular business hours.

“Members can expect food, fun, and excitement with Beacon Credit Union staff,” said Stuber.

Celebrations will take place at all three Wabash County locations in Wabash at 641 S Miami St. and 100 Wedcor Ave., and in North Manchester at 1301 Indiana 114 West.

“Our member-owners are very important to us, they are the center of everything we do,” said president and CEO Kevin Willour. “We are blessed and grateful to have

their support. Without such great member-owners, Beacon Credit Union would not be where it is today.”

— Staff report

Beacon Credit Union to Hold Free Community Shred Day on Saturday, Aug. 6

Beacon Credit Union will be hosting a free Community Shred Day from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 6 at 641 S. Miami St., Wabash, according to community relations specialist Kelly Stuber.

“This event is open to the community and gives residents the opportunity to destroy sensitive documents and help prevent identity theft,” said Stuber. “Items recommended to shred include past tax documents, bank and credit card statements and other sensitive documents including mail with personal information such as names, addresses, phone numbers or account information.”

Stuber said Beacon Credit Union will have personnel on-site to help direct drivers to the shredding truck.

Small paper clips and staples do not need to be removed.

There will be a limit of three boxes measuring 18 inches by 12 inches by 15 inches per vehicle.

First Bank of Berne named as Top 100 agricultural bank for the second year in a row

STAFF REPORT

First Bank of Berne has once again been listed as a Top 100 Farm Lender in the nation by American Bankers Association, the largest banking trade association in the United States, said vice president of marketing Chad Montgomery.

“First Bank of Berne has a long history of agriculture lending, beginning when it opened in 1891,” said Montgomery. “Today, the bank has grown into a regional leader in agribusiness lending, as evidenced by being named to the nation’s Top 100 list. First

Bank of Berne employs experienced farm financial consultants with proven ability to help agribusinesses prosper. The bank offers a variety of agricultural lending, including both long- and short-term loans, and provides extended services such as farm financial consulting and custom-designed crop insurance.”

The Top 100 list is determined by farm loan volume.

“It is an honor to be recognized as one of the nation’s leading ag lenders for the second year in a row,” said agribusiness banking manager Rick Gentis. “I






am proud of our team and the knowledge, experience, and expertise they offer our customers. Their service and commitment are paramount to the continued growth and success of our area.”

First Bank of Berne serves the communities in northern Indiana and north-west Ohio.

“The bank is committed to each of the communities it serves, focusing on both business and agribusiness services designed to help these communities grow and thrive,” said Montgomery.





For more information, visit [firstbankofberne.com](http://firstbankofberne.com).

### 5-Day Weather Summary

 <b>Wednesday</b> Mostly Sunny 91 / 73	 <b>Thursday</b> Showers Likely 82 / 71	 <b>Friday</b> Scattered T-storms 84 / 72	 <b>Saturday</b> Isolated T-storms 87 / 73	 <b>Sunday</b> Isolated T-storms 88 / 72
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### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 8:53 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 6:45 a.m.

 First 8/5	 Full 8/11	 Last 8/19	 New 8/27
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### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly sunny skies with a high temperature of 91°, humidity of 62%. South wind 6 to 15 mph. The heat index for today could reach up to 98°. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with a 45% chance of showers and thunderstorms, overnight low of 73°. South wind 6 to 14 mph.

Indiana doctors raise worries about proposed abortion ban

By **ARLEIGH RODGERS and TOM DAVIES**  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Doctors fear they could face criminal charges when they provide emergency treatment for pregnant women if a proposal aimed at banning nearly all abortions in Indiana becomes law, several physicians told state lawmakers Tuesday.

That testimony came after an Indiana House committee changed the abortion ban proposal narrowly approved over the weekend by the Republican-dominated state Senate. The committee broadened the language to include an exception allowing abortions to protect the health of the mother and adjusted the time frame when abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest.

Republican Rep. Wendy McNamara of Evansville, who is sponsoring the bill, outlined the exceptions to protect the physical health and life of the mother, a frequent request among doctors and others testifying before a Senate committee last week. The amendment also would allow abortions if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly.

It additionally removes the Senate-approved time

frames based on age for abortions in cases of rape or incest – up to 12 weeks for those under 16 and eight weeks for those 16 and older. The House version, instead, would create a blanket ban after 10 weeks post-fertilization on abortions in cases of rape and incest. Victims would also no longer be required to sign a notarized affidavit attesting to an attack.

Several dozen people on both sides of the abortion debate filled a Statehouse corridor outside the six-hour-plus committee meeting, where chants such as “safe and legal” from abortion-rights supporters could be heard inside.

The House committee was expected to vote later Tuesday on whether to advance the bill to the full House for action later this week.

Dr. Daniel Elliott, representing the Indiana chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians, told the committee that the group worried that a broad abortion ban could allow prosecutors to second-guess the emergency decisions of doctors, leaving them exposed to criminal charges.

The House proposal would require the state medical board to revoke the licenses of doctors found

to have performed illegal abortions.

“In emergency situations, physicians often work with a lack of complete information and must make quick decisions in the best interests of our patients,” Elliott said. “Overall, we feel like licensure and going to the medical licensing board is where the gray areas within medicine should lie.”

The Indiana proposal followed a political firestorm over a 10-year-old rape victim who traveled to the state from neighboring Ohio to end a pregnancy. The case gained wide attention when an Indianapolis doctor said the child had to travel to Indiana because a new Ohio law bans abortions if cardiac activity can be detected in an embryo or fetus, usually around six weeks of pregnancy.

Anti-abortion activists said they were offended that women from Ohio and Kentucky were coming to Indiana for abortions after strict laws took effect in those states following the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision overturning Roe v. Wade. They said Indiana shouldn’t allow any exceptions, arguing all abortions are “murder” and “evil” and that the state law declaring life begins at fertilization should be strictly enforced.

A big event and then a major announcement

I hope if you look around for it. I read the first few paragraphs of a story in the Times about fungi and how they absorb carbon that might otherwise be airborne and aggravate global warming and they enable plants to survive drought and serve as fertilizers. The headline was “Unearthing the Secret Superpowers of Fungus” and right there was my source of happiness for the day and I read no farther lest I come across the inevitable Buts and Howevers. My podiatrist says I have fungus under my toenails.

This tells me that I shall be able to dance again and maybe run the low hurdles.

It’s good of the Times to offer hope. Usually, it’s a downer. You read it and learn that the seas are full of plastic, a carbon cloud is making the glaciers melt, whole species are dying out, and half of our Republican friends believe that Joe and Jill are occupying the White House illegally, so we’re not the United States, we’re the banana republic of Ameragua and bands of revolutionaries will come down from the Sierras to overthrow the tyrants.

**Garrison Keillor**



I’d rather believe in the power of fungus.

I must say I feel terrific and here I am, turning 80, waking up cheerful in the morning.

When I was 17, I had uncles who sincerely believed I’d wind up friendless and threadbare, living in a shack with raccoons, feeding on boiled acorns, but it didn’t happen, and thanks to a love of moldy old jokes and my mother’s cream of mushroom soup, I

am in pretty good shape. In a couple of weeks, a professional anesthesiologist will suppress my faculties and a gentleman with a scalpel will open my chest, exposing my heart, and will excise the leaky mitral valve and replace it with one from an American hog.

I feel I should go to Iowa this week and meet the donor and express my gratitude. Surely this was not the fate the creature had in mind for himself. I’d like to pat his belly and scratch the top of his head and show him some love.

But why do I assume the valve comes from a male pig? I have no objection to receiving a female mitral and if this requires some transitioning on my part and identifying as a more sensitive and caring person and learning to wear pearls, then so be it. Male or female, boar or sow, pigs are known to burrow for provisions and eat a good deal of fungi that you and I pass up, so I am getting a new valve imbued

with superpowers. This is my hope, as encouraged by the Times. Not some small-town Times but the New Flashing Lights York Times and my hopes are pinned on the prospect of pig power. I am going to emerge from that procedure more coherent, more considerate and more connected than ever before.

I’m thinking I may announce my candidacy for the presidency before November.

Joe’s problem isn’t his age, it’s his experience. He spent his adult life in the U.S. Senate, which is less educational than working in a restaurant or teaching third grade. It’s like being a professional Shriner or Odd Fellow. You spend hours being amiable with people you feel superior to and then you stand up and give a speech written by someone else to a chamber that’s empty except for some clerks and a bunch of grade school kids up on the balcony. This is a poor excuse for a career, com-

pared to serving on a town zoning commission where real passions are aroused whereas in the Senate you’re simply showing off for people who agree with you. After all those years, it’s a wonder Joe speaks as well as he does.

My background, on the other hand, is fiction. I invented a town and populated it and told stories about the people in it and this, I maintain, is excellent preparation for the White House. Fiction is only persuasive if it’s based on truth. Politicians obscure, storytellers clarify. If elected, I am going to cut way back on fossil fuel and invest in fungi and hit the tycoons hard who are sponging off the rest of us. The nation cries out for a man with a piece of a beast in his heart and that man is me. I will not bore, I will sow harmony, I will be ferocious.

*Garrison Keillor is the author of two new books, “Lake Wobegon Virus” and “That Time of Year (a memoir).”*

COMMUNITY-WIDE

# FREE SHRED DAY

FREE to members and non-members!



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**August**

Time: 9:00 am To Noon



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Acceptable items  
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Paper clips (regular size) and staples **do not** have to be removed.

Limit 3 boxes  
(18" x 12" x 15")



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# Obituaries

## Even simple exercise may help aging brain, study hints

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**  
Associated Press

New research hints that even a simple exercise routine just might help older Americans with mild memory problems. Doctors have long advised physical activity to help keep a healthy brain fit. But the government-funded study marks the longest test of whether exercise makes any difference once memory starts to slide – research performed amid a pandemic that added isolation to the list of risks to participants’ brain health. Researchers recruited about 300 sedentary older adults with hard-to-spot memory changes called mild cognitive impairment or MCI – a condition that’s sometimes, but not always, a precursor to Alzheimer’s. Half were as-

signed aerobic exercises and the rest stretching-and-balance moves that only modestly raised their heart rate. Another key component: Participants in both groups were showered with attention by trainers who worked with them at YMCAs around the country – and when COVID-19 shut down gyms, helped them keep moving at home via video calls. After a year, cognitive testing showed overall neither group had worsened, said lead researcher Laura Baker, a neuroscientist at Wake Forest School of Medicine. Nor did brain scans show the shrinkage that accompanies worsening memory problems, she said. By comparison, similar MCI patients in another long-term study of brain health – but without exercise – expe-

rienced significant cognitive decline over a year. Those early findings are surprising, and the National Institute on Aging cautioned that tracking non-exercisers in the same study would have offered better proof. But the results suggest “this is doable for everybody” – not just seniors healthy enough to work up a hard sweat, said Baker, who presented the data Tuesday at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. “Exercise needs to be part of the prevention strategies” for at-risk seniors. Previous research has found regular physical activity of any sort may reduce damaging inflammation and increase blood flow to the brain, said Alzheimer’s Association chief scientific officer Maria Carrillo.

### BREUER

From page A1

honest, up front, subliminal, hilarious guy that I probably ever came across,” said Breuer. “I just never saw anyone so fearless in circumstances where I thought the stakes were so high. He would just break them down into nothing. He really did. He taught me a lot.” Breuer said his favorite memories of that time weren’t of the show itself, but of his life at the time. “Not so much being on television,” said Breuer. “It was going from a blue-collar kid to enjoying my marriage to we’re making money. We’re living in Manhattan. I’ve got a doorman. I’m buying everyone dinner and wine. It was bringing my friends along. It was the original, real-life ‘Entourage.’”

#### ‘Half Baked’

Besides “Saturday Night Live,” Breuer is also probably best known for his role as the perpetually stoned character Brian in the 1998 movie, “Half Baked.” The movie was co-written by co-star and fellow comedian Dave Chappelle. “I kept in touch with Dave up until about four years ago. Maybe five years ago,” said Breuer. “Then he kind of stopped hitting me back.” Last year, Chappelle’s comedy special on Netflix, “The Closer,” received a fair amount of negative response – even from some Netflix employees – in response to jokes regarding queer and transgender people. Breuer said he rejected the term “controversial” being applied to Chappelle’s special. “It’s not controversial. Nothing he does is controversial. That’s a word to stir up nonsense to be quite honest with you,” said Breuer. “There’s nothing he says in my opinion that is controversial. The only thing controversial are the confused and those who are emotionally distraught and haven’t solved or healed their issues that need to lash out at whatever triggers their lives.”

#### Put the phones down

Breuer said the advent of smartphones has been a net negative for stand-up comedians like him. “I definitely feel the same freedom, but I’ve definitely felt censored the last couple of years,” said Breuer. Breuer said to keep viral videos of half-formed jokes from circulating online without context he has begun filming all his shows. “I still continue to film every one, just in case someone thinks they have something or they think they’re smart,” said Breuer. “At the shows, if I see someone with their phone up I just gently point them out as I continue the routine. I go, ‘Please stop recording.’ I don’t point them out. It’s not to be recorded. Enjoy the event where you’re at and you’ll see it eventually. If I see myself being recorded what that person doesn’t realize, you just killed the

show. You’re taking away the performance. All my natural instincts and abilities are completely taken away. So if that’s not your objective, then the worst thing you can do is film. It’s the worst thing you can do. Especially if they know you’re doing it. You’re destroying what is meant to make you happy, and to make you think, and to make you laugh.”

#### Vaccine requirements

Last year, Breuer canceled several dates due to the venues requiring COVID-19 vaccinations. (“At this time, and in accordance with CDC guidelines, masks, proof of vaccination and proof of a negative COVID test are not required at Honeywell venues,” stated their website.) Breuer said he was skeptical about COVID-19 vaccines in general and felt such requirements were “pure recklessness.” “If you don’t watch television and you don’t get caught up in what they call ‘news,’ your common sense would tell you that is pure lunacy,” said Breuer. “When you live in a society where they’re dangling a fish going, ‘Jab yourself so you can see a ball game. Jab yourself so you can get educated. Jab yourself you can go see a concert.’ If you feel that’s what you gotta do, go do it. But I would never force that on anyone that just wanted to simply laugh.”

#### His faith

Breuer said his faith in God has always been important to him, but that he “wasn’t a church kid.” “My dad didn’t believe. He never wanted to do anything with church,” said Breuer. “My mom had believed in God. And I just figured out real young that you learn to listen to your God-given instinct. And your morals. You know what is right. You know what your intentions are. Your intentions are either good or bad. It’s going to either feed a good situation or a bad situation. When you have that grounding, no matter what temptation comes to you. Lust, money, fame, vanity, taking a shot. That’s all fear-driven.” Breuer said his faith has “been the great balance” of his life. “It has definitely saved my life and guided me and continues to do,” said Breuer. “Now, am I perfect? No. But I’ve watched so many people worth millions, tens, hundreds millions of dollars, be in the highest positions. It doesn’t matter. If you don’t have that you’re going down. If your god is vanity. If your god is to make as much money in the world. Those gods are soul-less. It’s soul-less. It means you will sell yourself to do anything to get to that god. And that is a dangerous, reckless part of society.”

#### His political views and his career

Especially during the past few years, Breuer has been outspoken on many issues in public, often with a contrary viewpoint to what might be

considered mainstream.

Breuer said this hasn’t hurt his career, and, in fact, has helped him connect with audiences. “What I discovered is that the more that I stick to my common sense, the more I grow as a human,” said Breuer. “Just like everyone else that spreads truth, what they believe is truth, what they believe in their natural ability to think, you’re going to have a lot of naysayers. You’re going to have a lot of people that want to stop that. It’s a very well-designed order that they’ve put into place in most of society and I don’t fear them. I don’t fear that whatsoever. I will not be controlled by people that are emotionally disturbed.” On July 1, Breuer released his latest comedy special, “Somebody Had to Say It” on YouTube, where it now has over 992,000 views. “I’m shocked. I’m not on television,” said Breuer. “I haven’t been on TV in forever. It’s strictly word of mouth and we’re up to basically a million views. ... It just just shows you how many people think and feel the same way and want to laugh about exactly what I was putting out there. The cool thing is I filmed that special a year ago. It’s been out since last October but only on my Patreon page. So it’s already over a year old and it’s still relevant today and people are still feeling what I was talking about a year and a half ago. And a year and a half ago when I was talking about it, people were really coming after me. I’m fearless to that.”

#### ‘Find the good’

Dee Breuer, Jim’s wife, has been receiving treatment for cancer for several years. Jim Breuer said about five years ago she was told she had less than a year to live. “As we speak today she’s getting her treatment and it’s going on five years of her doing really well,” said Jim Breuer. Jim Breuer said his family can cope with their health struggles because they never take anything as a given. “The greatest thing is my wife and I are very in tune with the fact that none of us know how long we’re going to be here: you, me, everyone who is going to come see me. We’re all on borrowed time,” said Jim Breuer. “We try to deny that all we want. We can try to make all the plans. We’re going to do this and we’re going to become the greatest comedian. None of this matters because you’re on a plan you’re creating. You don’t know when the end day is coming. So, our attitude has always been, ‘We’re here now so let’s live it to the greatest while we’re here.’” Jim Breuer said the best piece of advice he ever received was to “always find the good.” “Find the good in people. Find the good in a situation. Find the good in life. Find the good in yourself. Find the good. Because it’s there,” said Jim Breuer. *Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com.*

### Charles R. Tiede

Oct. 19, 1929 – July 31, 2022



Jaycees Distinguished Service Award. During that year he was President of the Wabash Chamber of Commerce. One of Charles passions was his work with the Honeywell Foundation. Serving as President of the Foundation for nine years, he worked strenuously to raise money for the construction of the new Honeywell Center which is considered to be the crown jewel of the Wabash community. Charles served as attorney for the North Manchester Town Board for 40 years. Charles’ strong faith in Jesus Christ led him to serve his local church. He taught Lutheran Catechism classes at Zion Lutheran Church, opened his home (along with wife Julie) to local youth for Bible Study and was a leader in the Full Gospel Business Mens Organization. As a member of St John Lutheran Church in Peru, he served as Director of the Lay Ministry Board for 10 years. Charles served the youth of Wabash as Club President of the Honeywell Swim Club, was an active member of the Wabash Exchange Club, serving as President for several terms; was President of the Wabash Community Centennial Executive Committee in 1966; and he headed Wabash County committees raising funds for the Indiana University Foundation. In 2004 Charles was the recipient of the distinguished Sagamore of the Wabash award; in 2006 he was Distinguished Citizen by the Wabash County Chamber of Commerce; in 2010 then Governor Mitch Daniels named him a Distinguished Hoosier and in 2011 was the first recipient of the Distinguished Lawyer Award from Wa-

bash County. Charles never sought accolades for his work. His free time was primarily spent with family first and his other loves second – the Frances Slocum Bank, the Honeywell Foundation and the myriad of other activities that are mentioned. He never entered into service for this community looking for monetary compensation or newspaper headlines. He did all these things because he saw a need, had a vision of a better way, or just plain had the desire to serve his community. He loved IU Football and basketball, gardening and growing pumpkins, and baking breads, cakes and cookies. He is survived by four daughters, Karen (Monte) Moffett of Porter, Indiana, Kathryn (Bryan) Meyers of Canoga Park, California, Julianne (Michael Smith) Tiede of Wabash, and Margo (Mark White) Tiede-White of Indianapolis, Indiana; ten grandchildren, Trey Moffett of Katy, Texas, Leah Meyers of Indianapolis, Lauren (Adam) Hiatt of Pendleton, Indiana, Alexandria (Gary) Nunez of Reseda, California, Aaron (Eleanor Wyant) Smith of Dorchester Center, Massachusetts, Adam (Skyla Turner) Smith of Ypsilanti, Michigan, Ava Smith of Wabash, Megan Tiede-White and Mattingly Tiede-White, both of Indianapolis, and Michelle Bailey; and ten great-grandchildren. He was also preceded in death by his parents and his son, Franklin Tiede. Funeral services will be 11:00 am, Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022, at St. Johns Lutheran Church, 181 W. Main Street, Peru, with Pastor Kenneth A. Greenwald officiating. Burial will be in Memorial Lawns Cemetery, Wabash. Friends may call 3-7 pm Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Ave. Wabash. Preferred memorial is Franklin S. Tiede Memorial Scholarship at the Community Foundation of Wabash County. The memorial guest book for Charles may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

### Josephine Koontz

March 7, 1943 – July 30, 2022

Josephine Koontz, 79, North Manchester, formerly of Sidney, died July 30, 2022. She was born March 7, 1943 in Kosciusko County, to Frank and Dorothy (Vielhauser) Delmuth. Josephine is survived by her sons, Forrester (Debra) Asher and Troy (Deana) Asher; daughter, Lori (Larry) Reust; brother, Jerry Williamson; sisters, Mary (Steve) Sloane, Sue (Sam) Manning, and Margaret Oaks; five grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Calling Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, from 10:00-12:00 noon at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 1203 State Road 114 East, North Manchester. The Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 12:00. Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

### Lowell Wade Bollinger

Sept. 30, 1932 – Aug. 1, 2022

Lowell Wade Bollinger, 89, North Manchester, died Aug. 1, 2022. Wade was born Sept. 30, 1932, in Topeka, Indiana, to Dr. Russell V. and Martha M. (Cripe) Bollinger. Wade is survived by his sons, Ty and Steven Bollinger; sisters, Karen (Jerry) Hand and Christine (Stanley) Beery; and granddaughter, Sydney Bollinger. Calling Friday, Aug. 5, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley Street, North Manchester, with services beginning at 11:00. A graveside service will be held at 2:00 p.m. at New Paris Cemetery, 18549-18683, County Road 46, New Paris, Indiana. Arrangements are entrusted to McKee Mortuary.

### Elizabeth Layman

Funeral services for Elizabeth Layman are 2:00 pm, Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Burial in Ever Rest Memorial Park, Logansport. Visitation 1-2 pm Thursday.

## Uvalde rekindles school police officers’ looming fears

By **COLLEEN SLEVIN**  
Associated Press

AURORA, Colo. — Tony Ramaecker averages around 14,000 steps a day as he walks around the Nebraska high school where he is assigned to work as a sheriff’s deputy, greeting students arriving in the morning, wandering the hallways to talk to them and watching out for those who might be eating alone in the cafeteria. The former Marine and longtime youth pastor keeps his office in suburban Omaha stocked with treats such as Little Debbie snacks and Pop-Tarts because eating helps kids in crisis calm down and talk.

But in the back of his mind, a thought always looms: What would he do if a gunman attacked the school? The latest reminder of that danger came in May when 19 children and two teachers were killed in a fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde, Texas. The fear that the next shooting could happen in their hallways hangs over school resource officers across the United States, exacerbating an already difficult job: They’re called on to be battle-ready officers whom parents and students can trust to protect them while not making students feel uncomfortable or targeted. Reminders of the threat of school shootings were omni-

present at a recent National Association of School Resource Officers conference in Colorado where hundreds of officers gathered for training. An exhibit hall featured booths with businesses selling ideas to stop the next school shooter, like door locks, and simulation machines to mimic shootings. One business showed off foldable semi-automatic rifles it said one school resource officer takes in a Hello Kitty backpack to his school in Alabama. “Mom and Dad don’t want to see this weapon in their school, but it’s got to be there,” said Dan Pose, CEO of Gulf Coast Tactical, which sells the rifles.



From page A1

“It will further enable the Learn More Center and our students to break barriers and help students achieve suc-

For more information, call  
or text 260-330-1461 or visit  
[www.learnmorecenter.org](http://www.learnmorecenter.org).

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

From page A1

"Research and lots of recent experience from libraries that have gone fine-free shows that overdue fines do not affect how fast people bring back books," said Hann. "Return rates are the same

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

From page A1

The Indiana Fallen Heroes Foundation has established a memorial fund for Shahnnavaz. Anyone who wishes to donate can vis-

*Morgan Keller, Chronicle-Tribune managing editor, may be reached by email at [mkeller@chronicle-tribune.com](mailto:mkeller@chronicle-tribune.com).*

## From page A1

National Geographic award-winning photographer Rhoda Gerig will present "More than Eagles," an array of wildlife photos from her collection, at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 9, at the Honeywell House, 720 N. Wabash St. As always,

The North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) will welcome Pamela Hoover, owner of The Samplermaker, to their artist's gallery. There will be an artist's reception for Hoover in conjunction with Second Fridays from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 at the NMCH, 122 E. Main St., North Manchester. The Samplermaker exhibit will remain in the Kaleidoscope Gallery through mid-November. The Center for History is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tues-

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool's "B is for Bee" from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug 17 at Salamonie Interpretive Center located in Lost Bridge West State Recreational Area (SRA), 3691 S. New Holland Road, Andrews. What keeps bees so busy? How do they help us? Each program is designed to enhance the preschooler's basic education, including music, crafts, social interaction and time outdoors, always with a nature-related theme. Children ages 2 to 5 and their adults are welcome to attend the class. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is requested. Register by calling 260-468-2127. For more information, visit <https://on.IN.gov/salamonielielake> or [dnr.IN.gov](https://dnr.IN.gov).

The Office of Indiana State Chemist (OISC) Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Program will be open on several dates and locations locally. This is a great way for farmers, public and private schools, agricultural dealers, nurseries, golf courses, cities, towns, municipalities, county units of government and others to dispose of suspended, canceled, banned, unusable, opened, unopened or just unwanted pesticides – including weed killers, insecticides, rodenticides, fungicides and miticides – for free for up to 250 pounds per participant. The drop-off time is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates and locations: Tuesday, Aug. 16 at Ceres Solutions, 2025 S Wabash St., Wabash; Wednesday, Aug. 17 at Bartholomew County Solid Waste District, 7720 S. Mapleton St., Columbus; Thursday, Aug. 18 at Daviess County Highway Department, 5247 E. 100th North, Montgomery; Tuesday, Aug. 23 at Davis Purdue Ag Center, 6230 Indiana 1, Farmland; Wednesday, Aug. 24 at Co-Alliance, 403 Highway 30 #9308, Valparaiso; and Thursday, Aug. 25 at Hendricks County Fairgrounds, 1900 E. Main St., Danville. Visit the OISC website to download the participant form at [oisc.purdue.edu](http://oisc.purdue.edu) or email [cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu](mailto:cleansweep@groups.purdue.edu) to have a participant form emailed. Those wanting to participate are required to complete and submit the participant form by mail, email or fax by Friday, Aug. 5. Then, bring your labeled, leak-free and safe to transport containers to the collection site. Do not mix materials. In case of an emergency, you should bring with you a list of products you are carrying and a contact phone number. For more information, call 765-494-1585.

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*Contact Mary Ogle at 563-8411 for more information or questions*

*All proceeds to benefit Wabash County residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*





KARENS

From page A1

basketball at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

“When I graduated everyone thought that I would coach including me but I didn’t love it as much as I loved playing,” she said. “I kind of floundered for a number of years.”

Mills said she found the next chapter of her life after she moved to Atlanta, Georgia and attended an open mic at The Punchline comedy club.

“Every time I would see a comedian on ‘Johnny Carson,’ I would think, ‘I think I could do that.’ I finally got the courage to go give it a whirl,” said Mills.

Mills said the manager of The Punchline said they thought she could be professional, but that she would have to start writing her material.

“All I knew how to do was to tell a joke,” said Mills. “I didn’t know how to take my life experience and turn it into stand-up. So I took a writing class and I went back and performed again at the

open mic. He hired me. It just started building from there. And that was 28 years ago. I kind of moved up from opener to feature to headliner and then I’ve done some different tours.”

Mills said it was preferable to be able to tour with a companion like Morgan.

“The road can be lonely for a road comic,” said Mills. “So, it’s always nice to have a friend you can work with.”

Morgan said when the “Karen” phenomenon first happened, they “were kind of hoping it would go away, but it hasn’t.”

Morgan said it was at that time they decided “to just embrace it.”

“We just laughed about it for so long,” said Morgan. “So it’s like, ‘Well if you can’t beat them join them.’ It is much more fun to do shows like this together when you’re on the road. It’s just a pleasant thing. I’ve known Karen for a long time. I’m just a baby in comedy. I’ve only been doing it 18 years. So when we had this opportunity. Someone said, ‘You should do a show together about The Karens.’ And we’re like, ‘Sure that sounds fun.’”

Morgan said the natural demographic for the show was probably middle-aged females “with some life experience,” but that they’ve been able to attend to other audiences who might not have thought they were the target market.

“The people who get dragged to this show are the husbands or partners or the people who don’t necessarily think oh that’s a great idea to go have a comedy show,” said Morgan. “I love having those people at shows because they’re like pleasantly surprised. ‘I thought this was going to suck.’ And then they have a good time and they’re like, ‘See comedy is fun.’”

Mills said many times she has heard women tell her their husbands would have loved it if they had tagged along.

“Or the husband does come, get dragged there and goes, ‘I didn’t think women were funny but you were great,’” said Mills.

Morgan said they start the shows by each performing their own sets before coming out on stage together.

“We make fun of the whole ‘Karen’ phenomenon, the

‘Karen’ debacle,” said Morgan. “We’ll maybe take some audience interaction in terms of questions and situations people may have been found themselves in. It’s a little combination of our solo acts and also our coming together. People come out prepared to laugh. Take a night to have no worries. This is a night of fun. This is a night to really go out and have a little break, a little laugh vacation with us. It’ll be fine.”

Mills said they considered their show a respite from “all the horrific things going on.”

“Just have a day of laughter, and it will really serve you well,” said Mills.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

Utah man accused of causing wildfire by burning a spider

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah man has been arrested on accusations he started a wildfire while trying to burn a spider with his lighter.

Cory Allan Martin, 26, told deputies that he spotted the spider Monday while he was in a hiking area in the foothills south of Salt Lake City near the city of Springville, shows a probable cause statement. He acknowledged starting the fire, but didn’t explain why he was trying to burn the spider.

Deputies found a jar of marijuana in his belongings, but he didn’t appear to be high, said Utah County Sheriff’s Sgt. Spencer Cannon.

There is no evidence to suggest he intentionally started the blaze, said Cannon, but he called it a reckless and puzzling decision. This area and most of Utah are bone dry amid extreme drought conditions.



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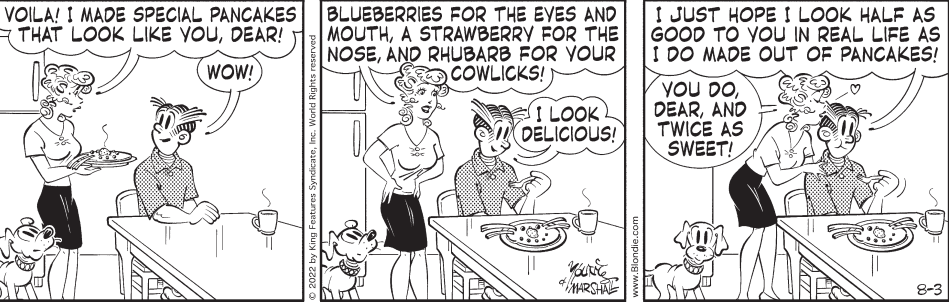




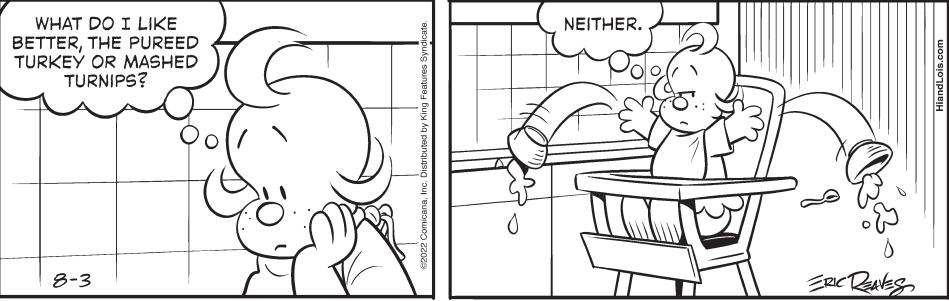
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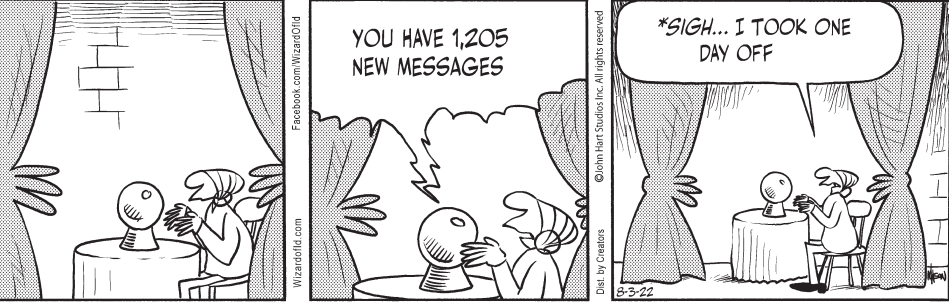
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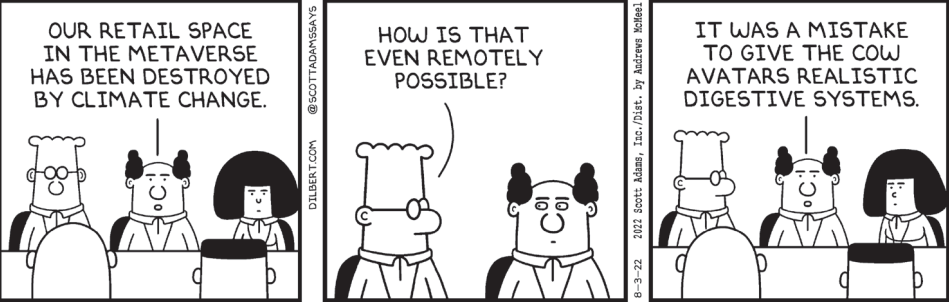
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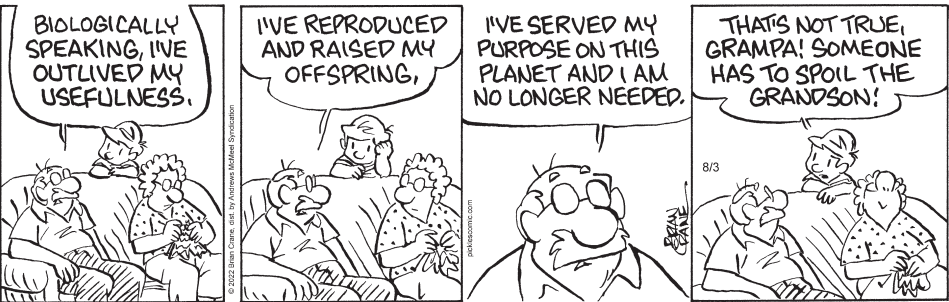
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PICKLES



SUDOKU

**How to play:** Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

Today's solution

1	5	8	7	8	9	2	6	
2	9	6	1	5	2	8	7	8
3	7	8	2	6	6	9	1	9
4	7	9	1	2	8	6	8	
5	6	9	2	7	8	2	9	1
6	2	1	6	9	8	7	9	2
7	6	2	8	7	1	9	8	5
8	8	7	9	6	4	1	6	2
9	1	9	8	2	5	6	7	4

		9	5			1	
	3			9		8	
			7	3			4
				9		2	8
		2	8		7	5	
3	9		2				
6			9	3			
	4			5			6
	2				4	3	

THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Spring month: abbr.  
4 "Another"; NPR radio game show  
9 Team's defeat  
13 Word with market or collar  
14 "The coast is \_\_\_!"  
15 Where most Hawaiians live  
16 Mardi Gras follower  
17 Construction site manager  
19 "Ewes" homonym  
20 Actress Davis  
21 Glue stick contents  
22 Weekly pickup  
24 Org. for Coyotes & Panthers  
25 "Silent Night" & others  
27 \_\_\_ down; hushes  
30 Give an address  
31 \_\_\_ rather; prefers to  
33 Groove  
35 Citi Field players  
36 From the neighborhood  
37 Wild animal's refuge  
38 Fewer than a few  
39 Like a chimney flue  
40 Popular '70s Ford subcompact  
41 Rise  
43 Eliminated errors  
44 Wonderment  
45 New Zealand native  
46 Give some away  
49 Knight's weapon  
51 Last year's Jrs.  
54 Deep cut  
56 Neighbor of Idaho  
57 "Beware the \_\_\_ of March"  
58 Stupid  
59 Nudge  
60 Church service  
61 Miles per hour  
62 "\_\_\_ we having fun yet?"

DOWN

- 1 Refreshing drinks  
2 Soaks through  
3 One not to be trusted  
4 Way in  
5 Laziness  
6 Superman's alias  
7 Husband or wife  
8 Go wrong  
9 Story setting  
10 Granola bits  
11 Injection  
12 "Of course!"  
13 Respiratory woe  
18 Plant pest  
20 Bundle in a barn  
23 Decays  
24 \_\_\_ and void  
25 Singer Perry  
26 Hockey venue  
27 Landing place  
28 Small radio  
29 Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker \_\_\_"  
31 Lumber  
32 10th of 12: abbr.  
34 \_\_\_ on; trampled  
36 "The \_\_\_ Ranger"

Today's solution

E	H	V	D	E	S	D	S	S	V	W			
E	K	O	D	E	S	N	E	D	S	E	O	I	
H	V	I	N	O	I	L	V	E	C	V	I		
S	R	S	D	H	O	W	S	E	H	V	H	S	
	I	R	O	W		E	M	V					
D	E	S	V	H	E		D	N	E	C	S	V	
O	I	N	I	D	A	L	O	O	S	E	N	O	
R	I	V	I	T	A	C	O	T	S	L	E	W	
I	N	H	D	T	N	O	M	E	L	V	H	O	
S	L	E	I	N	O		S	T	O	R	V	C	
			T	H	N		H	S	V	H	I		
E	L	S	V	D		E	L	E	B	E	S	N	
H	O	I	C	V	H	I	N	O	C	I	N	E	T
N	H	V	O	E	V	E	L	C	V	E	T	F	
S	S	O	I	E	K	S	V		H	D			

Siblings estranged from mom want no contact

**DEAR AMY:** My brother and I are both in our late 30s.

After years of strife and our mother's refusal to respect any of our stated boundaries, in early 2020 (after several pointless therapy sessions with her), we made the decision to go "no contact."

**Amy Dickinson**  
Ask Amy



why. Coincidentally, both of us were also moving to new homes and we told her that we would not give her our new addresses.

She ignored that, hired a lawyer and a private investigator, got our addresses, and had things delivered to our homes.

She had a famous "specialist" in estranged families reach out to us.

She had her lawyer contact us. She sent emails and physical mail to both of our workplaces. We did not respond.

Finally, she had a family friend, "Laura" contact me.

Laura is very nice. About 15 years ago, she let me stay at her home in Europe.

Her email basically stated that our mother is devastated by the estrangement, family will always be family, no one is perfect, etc. etc.

There was nothing indicating that our mother has made any adjustments or that a renewed relationship would be anything other

than the constant turmoil of the past.

None of this is Laura's fault. I don't want to be a jerk.

Do I have any obligation to respond?

I'm concerned that my mother would interpret any response as a sign that her persistence is "working." — Estranged

**DEAR ESTRANGED:** When parents write to me about estrangement, they frequently state that they have no idea why an estrangement has occurred, and yet — your mother does know the reason, because you have told her.

She has designated her amiable friend to be her representative, because all of her more outrageous and aggressive attempts have failed. She is now "using" her friend, which is another boundary she has crossed — with her friend and with you.

"Laura" has stated a number of truisms: Family will always be family, no one is perfect, etc. etc. There is nothing in the message to indicate that your mother is making a move toward change.

You are not obligated to reply. If you do reply, I suggest that you respond: "I received your email. I am reminded again of your kindness when I was traveling in Europe all those years ago. Thank you again for your hospitality. Otherwise, I hope you are well."

That's it. If she contacts you again as your mother's representative without any specific indications regarding change, then you can further make your point by

ignoring it.

**DEAR AMY:** My fiance "Benjamin" and I have been together for four years. We planned and then replanned our wedding because of the pandemic. It has been rescheduled two times now.

Before rescheduling again, we realized we have officially had it. Everything about this big event — the constant concerns about our family members and guests, the details and checklists, and especially the expense — seems ridiculous to us now.

We had a heart-to-heart and have decided to get married quickly and quietly, canceling the celebration.

We are going to disappoint a lot of people. Frankly, we're a little freaked out about that. Words of courage, please? — Nervous

**DEAR NERVOUS:** I commend you for anchoring your plans now to your important intention, which is to get married.

Go to the courthouse next weekend — if that is what you want to do. You could notify local immediate family to witness and have lunch afterward (if you want).

One caution: Don't post your news on social media until you notify all of your wedding guests about your ultimate change of plans — perhaps accompanied by a photo of your little ceremony.

These guests should be the first to know.

Word your notification carefully and lovingly, thank people for hanging in there through the ups and downs of your planning, invite people to call you if they have questions, and — move on with your married life.

HOROSCOPE

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3, 2022

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Talking the talk is meaningless unless you walk the walk. Optics are less powerful than what you do behind the scenes. Most of those who enter your life now should see you as trustworthy and tolerant.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Things aren't always what they seem; something that looks like hard work could turn out to be easier than you think. Show up, do your best and focus on building your self-discipline.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Work hard and use your eye for perfection in constructive ways. Your best strategy is to present a balanced outlook and harmonious thoughts. If business comes first, you can pursue social activities later.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** Don't get caught up in appearances — they can be deceiving now. Look beneath the surface to find out if someone or something that attracts your interest contains true quality or is just cleverly

packaged.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Show off what you can do; great leaders lead mindfully, humbly and by example. Even when you are the star of the show, be sure everyone knows they can depend upon you to be a team player.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** You maintain the sanctity of trust and ongoing love by being straightforward and honest with loved ones at all times. Discuss issues with a close friend or colleague to gather tips and achieve long-term goals.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Never share private confidences or repeat gossip. Also don't judge; when you've heard one side of a story that's all you've heard. Focus on honoring your commitments and connecting with helpful people.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Let your true colors shine through at play or on the job. Loved ones may want you to stick to the facts and have the figures handy. You can delegate authority to free up your schedule for upcoming weekend plans.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Love the one you are with. Someone's affection might seem low key, but they should be reliable. Despite a few communications challenges, loyalty and trustworthiness should come through.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Each small success is a step upwards that can reinforce your confidence. Your diplomacy and tact can be an asset at the workplace. Make wise budget decisions when your hard-earned money is at stake.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Playing by the rules is important now. Do everything the accepted way to ensure that others can appreciate and understand what you do. Adhere to norms and follow through on social niceties.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** Truth can be cleverly obscured. Dig down to get to the heart of the situation instead of falling for spin or presentation. You may be inspired to shift your focus to creative activities, hobbies or entertainment.



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://young.senate.gov/contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:  
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Philippians 2:3

# Biden's COVID is note of caution

We don't get to decide when the COVID-19 pandemic is over. Instead, nature and an ever-evolving virus dictate when that endpoint will finally arrive.

That the pathogen, not people, calls the shots has been said repeatedly since the pandemic's beginning by Minnesota infectious-disease expert Michael Osterholm, a former state epidemiologist who now leads the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

On Thursday, July 21, news from the White House drove home Osterholm's observation. President Joe Biden, 79, has tested positive. Fortunately, Biden is fully vaccinated and boosted twice. He's also taking Paxlovid, an antiviral drug that can be close to 90 percent effective in preventing severe illness if given within five days of symptom onset.

So far, the president's illness is mild. His doctor reports that Biden has a runny nose and "fatigue, with an occasional dry cough" that started Wednesday night. Meanwhile, Minnesota Sen. Tina Smith, a Democrat, also announced this week that she has COVID. Like Biden, she is vaccinated, boosted and "experiencing mild symptoms."

The two high-profile cases serve as a timely reminder that highly transmissible COVID variants continue to

emerge and circumnavigate the globe with frightening ease. The pathogen even eluded the White House's defenses, as it did when Donald Trump was in office. While this is discouraging, perspective is essential.

Unlike during the pandemic's early months, we're now in a much better position to protect family, friends and our communities. By now, everyone should understand COVID's airborne spread. N95 masks, which provide robust protection against breathing in the virus, are widely available. And while they're no longer required in most places, putting one on voluntarily, particularly in high-risk settings such as crowded indoor spaces, makes a lot of sense.

At-home test kits are also widely accessible. These may even be available at no cost through a federal program that ships them directly to American homes (to sign up, go to special.usps.com/test-kits). In addition, health insurers may make no-cost tests available to plan holders. But many pharmacies offer advice on accessing this benefit.

Paxlovid, the antiviral medication prescribed for Biden, is another critical addition to the arsenal against COVID. The drug is authorized for use in ages 12 and up and is recommended for those at high risk of severe COVID,

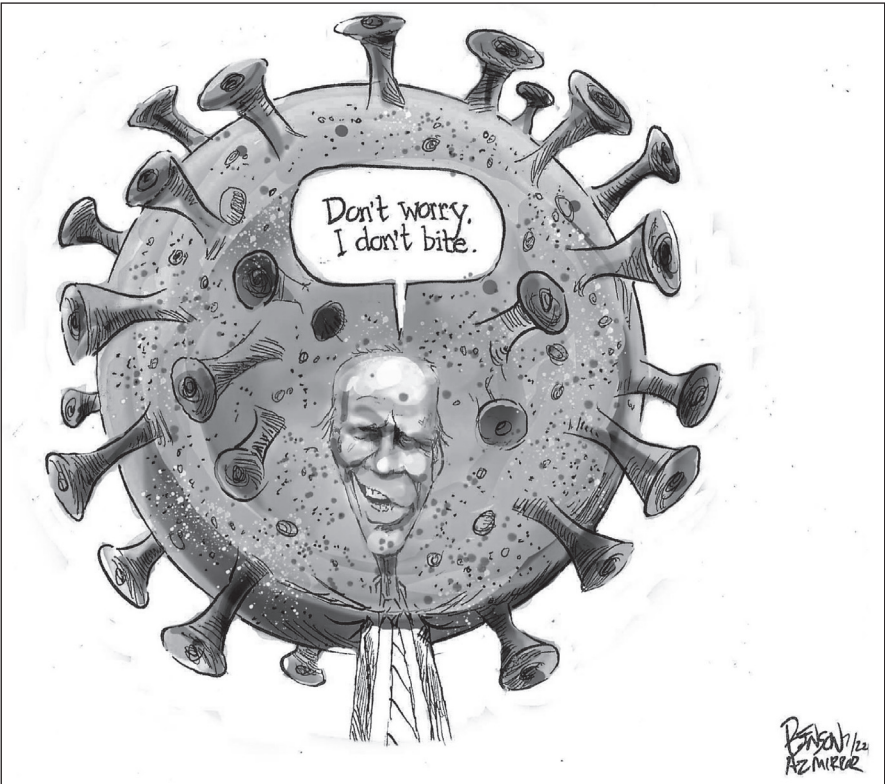
such as the elderly or those with underlying health conditions. It's available through most medical providers. Five of Minnesota's community testing sites offer no-cost Paxlovid prescriptions, which can be filled on the spot, to those eligible for this treatment. The five sites: Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, St. Paul Midway, Brooklyn Park, Duluth and Moorhead.

The vaccine remains the most potent weapon, guarding against severe disease if you're infected with COVID. Boosters are vital, particularly for the elderly, yet the state has work to do on that front. Just 33 percent of Minnesotans ages 5 and up are considered to have "up-to-date vaccine doses," meaning they've received all doses of the COVID vaccine for which they're eligible. The percentage rises to 51 percent for those 65 and older, but that's still not ideal.

Nationally, COVID cases have risen 18 percent over the past 14 days – though perhaps more given the ubiquity of at-home test results that aren't reported – with hospitalizations up 19 percent in the same period, according to the New York Times COVID tracker. Biden's case urgently signals that both caution and action remain critical.

This isn't over.

*This editorial was first published in the Star-Tribune.*



# Trying to measure the effect of abortion bans on our economy

The start of Indiana's special legislative session has caused a number of folks to ask me about the economic impact of restrictive abortion rules. The plain answer is that I don't know, and cannot really know with the type of certainty I feel comfortable with. The nation has been under one reasonably common set of rules for half a century. Thus, we are just beginning the type of natural policy experiment an economist might use to estimate impacts.

That does not mean we cannot use other policies that might influence the migration of people and jobs as a proxy for how changes to what abortion laws might influence our state's economy. But, before evaluating the issue, it is important to acknowledge that there are a wide variety of truly principled positions on abortion. One valuable duty of citizenship in our Republic is to respect principled positions and those who hold them.

That does not mean all positions are principled or that many folks will fail to consider competing views in ways that are consistent with the U.S. Constitution. The plain fact is that we've been through a half century of cheap rhetoric about abortion. The bill is now due, and I expect it is going to be very steep.

The best study I've seen that might inform us about

**Michael Hicks**



Amanda Weinstein estimated gender differences in quality of life preferences in U.S. cities. They used individual data for single, childless adults. They found, that for the most part, men and women like the same things.

Where men and women differed was in their interest in the quality of local government, primarily schools and crime. Men also like some types of recreation more than women. The authors were surprised by one outlier city that men liked and women did not. This small town in Alabama was where Lilly Ledbetter (of the "Fair Pay Act") lived and worked and was discriminated against.

Their careful data analysis led the authors to study the effect of gender norms on the location decisions of men and women. This is where the study went from "great" to "groundbreaking." They used all sorts of measures of gender norms, such as the male/female employment ratio, the year of election of the first woman legislator and survey data on

gender roles.

Across these measures, both men and women preferred places where gender roles were more equal. But, women really, really preferred these places. This is relevant to the economic effects of abortion because, for the past few decades, the places women prefer have grown much faster than the places men prefer. As a happily married man, I fully understand this dynamic. However, this study was on the preferences of single people.

The study offered solid evidence that places with more equal gender norms grew faster than places that were less equal. The growth gap was about 25 percent over two decades, which is an enormous difference. Their findings also make sense because there is a large body of related research that finds places with less racial or ethnic discrimination grow more quickly.

That fact also challenges any good analysis of the effect of abortion restrictions on a state economy. The reason for this is that the states that are most likely to impose severe abortion restrictions are already significantly underperforming the rest of the nation.

As of this writing, there are 21 states that preemptively banned abortion in case Roe v. Wade was overturned. Three of these states have bans that go into effect

after a short waiting period; the remaining 18 were immediate. Four of these states have bans that are currently blocked by courts. It is useful to compare the economic conditions in the states where bans were passed before Roe v. Wade was overturned with those who did not. The results are pretty stark.

In terms of current economic conditions, places with abortion bans in place have a poverty rate of 14 percent compared to 11.2 percent in non-ban states. Household income in the abortion ban states averages \$75,892 per year, while it is \$90,828 in the non-ban states. Both household and per capita incomes in the abortion ban states are 19.6 percent lower than in the states without a ban.

Future economic prospects in those states with an abortion ban are even worse than current conditions. The high school graduation rate is almost two percentage points lower in the ban, than the non-ban states. That is a meaningful difference, but not insurmountable. However, the share of adults with a college degree is a whopping 6.6 percent lower in the states with a pre-emptive ban than those without. That is a multi-generational gap.

The states with pre-emptive abortion bans spend 31 percent less per student in their K-12 system, and 20 less per college student.

Finally, population growth in the states with preemptive abortion bans is 26 percent lower than in states without a ban.

Obviously, preemptive abortion restrictions didn't cause longstanding differences in economic outcomes between states. Some other factor is limiting economic growth and prosperity in these states. Teasing out the incremental effect of an abortion ban will be nearly impossible given that the states who imposed abortion bans are already underperforming the rest of the nation on nearly every facet of economic vibrancy.

There are many potential hypotheses about the cause of these economic differences. Some of it is random. Wisconsin's law dates to the 1840s, and was probably known to few residents before last month. In other places, dominant religious groups clearly play a role. Maybe it will take a few years and a couple of election cycles to reveal the real pattern of state abortion laws. What we see right now is vastly different from what we'll see in a few years.

Whatever happens with this legislation, we are clearly in a time that calls for reflection. The role of government in abortion marks only one part of our need to do some deep thinking about the state's future.

*Michael Hicks may be reached by email at cberdirector@bsu.edu.*

## LETTERS

**Professional golf turmoil is a parable**

Golfers all over the country are in a state of consternation. The Saudis just bought up the brightest names in golf for a parallel world professional golf tour. The Saudis are providing huge payouts for virtually all who play in their tournaments.

The 1 percent class in America is like the Saudis. They constitute exactly the kind of aristocracy that our ancestors fought to outlaw. The Founders prohibited super-privileged titans from waltzing in the front door by outright banning titles of nobility in the U.S. Constitution. But the new American Lords of finance and industry have been sneaking in through the back door since the 1970s when financial de-regulation first began.

Huge, gargantuan money buys whatever it wants, including politicians and elections, newspapers, private armies, space travel, monopolies, Hollywood starlets and golf professionals.

One has to wonder if economic democracy is dead and gone in America.

**Kimball Shinkoskey**  
Woods Cross, Utah

## We have to restore balance to the Supreme Court now

This is a scary moment. The Supreme Court just dismantled abortion rights across America. As a result, 26 states could outlaw abortion, including 13 that have passed "trigger" laws to take effect immediately after the Court overturns Roe v. Wade.

This news should set off alarm bells for all Americans. Our fundamental freedoms are coming under attack by a hyper-partisan super-majority on the Court. And this could just be the beginning. But there's a way to fight back, which is why I'm urging Congress to pass the Judiciary Act of 2021.

The Judiciary Act would re-balance the Supreme Court by adding four new seats, giving us 13 justices in total. It's just what we need to move away from extremely partisan rulings and restore the legitimacy of the Court – and it's been done before. Congress has changed the size of the Supreme Court seven times already in our nation's history. A recent poll showed that the majority of Americans support expanding the court again now.

It's past time for Congress to get on board with this crucial bill.

**Lori Voght**  
Huntington

## WCS board response to, 'A joint open letter to Wabash County leaders'

*(Editor's note: The Plain Dealer published "A joint open letter to Wabash County leaders" on Saturday, July 23. At the Wabash City Schools (WCS) board meeting on Monday, Aug. 1, board president Rod Kelsheimer read the following statement in response, which was provided to the Plain Dealer by WCS superintendent Amy Sivley.)*

The Board of Wabash City Schools feels compelled to respond to the open letter from local business and community leaders. We want to thank the leaders for their vision for the future of education in Wabash County. It is refreshing to know that we have community members that are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to invest in our children and the future of Wabash. We would like to reaffirm our interest in coming together. It is our hope that the leaders of MSD of Wabash County and Manchester Community Schools will be willing to come to the table to begin discussions to better serve the children and community of Wabash County.

**Rod Kelsheimer, board president**  
**Rhonda Hipskind, board vice president**  
**Stephen Dafoe, board secretary**  
**Jason Fry, board member**  
**Krsiten Petruniw, board member**



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0900

Request for Qualifications Professional Consulting Services  
Grow Wabash County Small Business E-Commerce Program  
Wabash County, Indiana

**Purpose:**  
Grow Wabash County (GWC) is seeking a qualified consultant to assist in developing and executing a program that will provide training and support for local small businesses to launch electronic commerce (e-commerce) platforms. Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) shall be submitted by firms that have a capable and demonstrable background in the type of work described in this RFQ. In addition, all interested firms shall have sufficient, readily available resources in the form of trained personnel, support services, specialized consultants, access to relevant specialized software, and financial resources to carry out the work without delay or shortcomings to complete the project by December 31, 2022.

**Location:**  
214 South Wabash Street, Wabash, IN 46992

**Scope of Services:**  
GWC is seeking a qualified consultant to provide support and training to small business owners in Wabash County for the development and launch of an e-commerce website to boost their sales and business reach. The following services are anticipated but are not meant to be an inclusive list.

- E-Commerce platform development support
  - One-on-One consulting with businesses regarding e-commerce strategies
- Training/Resources on various topics such as:
    - Introduction to e-commerce
    - E-commerce best practices
    - E-commerce platform maintenance
    - Troubleshooting e-commerce platforms prior to and after launch

There may be other services requested later. Those include, but are not limited to:  
◦ Follow up with clients to ensure e-commerce site is functioning as expected

**Intent**  
The intent of this RFQ is to provide for the administration of business services related to e-commerce practices to Wabash County small businesses. GWC has been awarded a grant from Region 3-A to cover costs related to the services rendered. The awarded firm's proposal will be used to provide business owners instruction and support related to e-commerce that will be funded by Grow Wabash County and reimbursed through the Region 3-A grant.

**Timeline:**  
• July 23- Aug. 3, 2022 – Legal Ads and RFQ sent out for potential consultants  
• September 2, 2022 – Deadline by 4pm to receive SOQ's from consultants  
• September 6, 2022 – Select Consultant  
• September 12, 2022 – Issue notice to proceed on the agreement  
• December 31, 2022 - Deadline for project completion

**Funding:**  
Project not to exceed \$50,000 for consultant fees, training materials, software needs, and marketing, etc. Consultant selected will invoice Grow Wabash County for expenses with documentation then Grow Wabash County will reimburse consultant with funding provided by Region 3-A grant funds.

**Submittal Information:**  
Three (3) hard copies and one (1) electronic copy in PDF format (Flash Drive) of the SOQ shall be submitted via mail or delivery. The SOQ's shall be received no later than September 2, 2022 at 4pm. The SOQ's shall be in a sealed envelope with the title of this Request and the Respondent's name, address and telephone number clearly marked on the outside. Any SOQ that is delivered after the times stated in this Request shall be deemed ineligible. All questions pertaining to this Request shall be in writing (email or carrier service) to Chelsea Boulrisse, Project Manager, Grow Wabash County at chelsea@growwabashcounty.com or by calling (260) 563-5258. Mailing Address:  
Grow Wabash County  
214 S. Wabash St.  
Wabash, IN 46992

**SOQ Minimum Criteria:**  
Each firm's SOQ shall be no more than twenty (20) single-sided pages (10 pages double-sided) and shall include, at minimum, the following:  
• Name, address, and brief description of firm.  
• Resumes of key personnel to be assigned to this project  
• Narrative as to the firm's interest, particular abilities, and qualifications related to this project  
• Description of related projects designed by your firm and key personnel pertinent to that project  
• Examples of knowledge, expertise, and/or experience with similar projects  
• Sample training program to help small businesses develop e-commerce strategy outlined, estimate number of businesses served, and schedule; project must conclude by Dec 31, 2022.  
• Project Budget – project not to exceed \$50,000 for fees, training materials, software needs, and marketing

**Selection Criteria**  
Consultants will be scored on the following criteria:  
• Quality of firm's Statement of Qualifications in relationship to information requested  
• Apparent knowledge of the project and specific needs  
• Capacity of team to do work including Project Manager ability  
• Consultants experience in projects similar in size and nature to the ones in this RFQ  
• Firm's familiarity with local conditions, requirements, and needs  
• Analysis of the firm's overall approach to your project, including the feasibility of the program's completion by Dec. 31, 2022.

**Selection Procedure:**  
Consultants shall be selected for work items further described herein, based on the evaluation of the SOQ's and any other required documents. The Statement of Qualifications Evaluation form shall be used to determine a priority ranking list. The SOQ's shall be scored by a three (3) to five (5) member selection committee that will rank each consultant using the Statement of Qualifications Form as described above. From the score sheets, the scoring committee will determine the top most qualified firm. That firm will then be notified of their selection. The selection procedure will be used as a guide and the final decision will be at the sole discretion of Grow Wabash County. Grow Wabash County reserves the right to interview consultants before making the final decision.

**Contract Conditions:**  
The selection process will provide a ranking for all submissions from most qualified to least qualified. The County will then enter into negotiations with the firm determined to be the most qualified. If successful negotiations cannot be achieved, Grow Wabash County reserves the right to terminate negotiations and initiate negotiations with the next ranked firm until an agreement can be achieved with one of the firms. The prospective consultant is advised that should this process result in a recommendation for award of an agreement, the agreement will not be in force until it is approved and fully executed Grow Wabash County and Region 3A. All documents and materials related to this process, unless otherwise exempt, will be subject to Indiana's Public Access Law. Upon successful negotiation of an agreement, the firm selected will be asked to provide, among other things, a Certificate of Insurance in accordance with the requirements which follow along with appropriate documentation evidencing its compliance with the Federal Government's E-Verify Program which also follow.

**Insurance:**  
The Consultant shall not commence work until it has obtained all the insurance required as follows and such insurance has been approved by Grow Wabash County.  
1) Policies and Coverage.  
i) The Consultant shall obtain and maintain for the term of the Contract the following policies and coverage:  
(a) Comprehensive or Commercial Form General Liability Insurance, on an occurrence basis, covering work done or to be done by or on behalf of the Consultant and providing insurance for bodily injury, personal injury, property damage, and contractual liability. The aggregate limit shall apply separately to the work. Coverage shall include premises-operation, product completed operations; include coverage for explosion, collapse and underground work.  
(b) Business Automobile Liability Insurance, on occurrence basis, covering owned, hired, and non-owned automobiles used by or on behalf of the Contractor and providing insurance for bodily injury, property damage, and contractual liability. Such insurances shall include coverage for uninsured and underinsured motorists.  
(c) Worker's Compensation including Employers Liability Insurance, as required by law.  
(d) Other Insurance, by agreement between the Grow Wabash County and the Contractor.  
ii) The Consultant's obligations to obtain and maintain all required insurance are non-delegable duties under this Contract.

**Employment Eligibility Verification (E-Verify):**  
The Consultant shall affirm under the penalties of perjury that he/she/it does not knowingly employ an unauthorized alien. The Consultant shall enroll in and verify the work eligibility status of all his/her/its newly hired employees through the E-Verify program as defined in IC 22-5-1.7-3. The Consultant is not required to participate should the E-Verify program cease to exist. Additionally, the Consultant is not required to participate if the Consultant is self-employed and does not employ any employees. The Consultant shall not knowingly employ or contract with an unauthorized alien. The Consultant shall not retain an employee or contract with a person that the Consultant subsequently learns is an unauthorized alien. The Consultant shall require his/her/its subcontractors, who perform work under this contract, to certify to the Consultant that the subcontractor does not knowingly employ or contract with an unauthorized alien and that the subcontractor has enrolled and is participating in the E-Verify program. The Consultant agrees to maintain this certification throughout the duration of the term of a contract with a subcontractor. Termination for default will occur if thirty (30) days after notification the Consultant fails to cure a breach of this provision.

HSPAXLP.07/23,07/27,07/30,08/03/2022

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## Padres obtain Juan Soto from Nationals in blockbuster deal

By **BERNIE WILSON**  
and **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writers

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Padres acquired superstar outfielder Juan Soto from the Washington Nationals on Tuesday in one of baseball's biggest deals at the trade deadline, vaulting their postseason chances by adding one of the game's best young hitters.

The Padres also obtained first baseman Josh Bell while sending a haul of players to Washington that included rookie left-hander MacKenzie Gore, first baseman/DH Luke Voit and prospects James Wood, C.J. Abrams, Robert Hassell III and Jarlin Susana.

Voit was a late addition to the deal after San Diego first baseman Eric Hosmer declined to waive a no-trade provision, according to a person with direct knowledge of the move who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because negotiations were ongoing at the time.

Soto is a generational talent who turns 24 in late October, when the Padres hope to still be playing for a title.

After contributing to the Nationals' first championship in franchise history in 2019, Soto hit .351 in 2020 to win the NL batting title. He has been walked more than any other player in major league baseball over the past two seasons.

"The atmosphere here is they want to win, and not just go to the playoffs but win a World Series," said All-Star closer Josh Hader, who was obtained by San Diego on Monday in another big deal with Milwaukee. "That's a contagious atmosphere to be a part of."

San Diego began the season with a luxury tax payroll of \$229.3 million, just below the first threshold, and the trades push the Padres into tax territory for the second straight season. Soto is owed \$5,978,022 for the rest of this season and Bell \$3,516,844.

The package of prospects going to Washington is one of the most touted groups ever involved in one deal. Gore and Abrams debuted in San Diego this season after ranking among the sport's elite minor leaguers, Hassell and Wood are both Top 100 prospects according to MLB.com, and Susana was considered the best pitcher available in the 2021-22 international free agent class.

Washington general manager Mike Rizzo set a lofty asking price last month after reports emerged that Soto turned down the team's latest contract offer

of \$440 million over 15 years.

Soto remains under team control for two more seasons after this one, which made it no sure thing the Nationals would trade him now. The Padres getting him for potentially three playoff runs even absent a new deal made this the peak of Soto's value.

That uncertainty began weighing on Soto, who said after Sunday's game against St. Louis: "I just want to get it over with and see what's going to happen. Start over here or wherever I'm at."

He gets to start over in San Diego in the midst of his second All-Star season, part of a loaded lineup that also includes All-Star Manny Machado and Fernando Tatis Jr. when the shortstop returns from a broken left wrist.

"It's pretty impressive to have those three types of guys on one team in the same lineup," said Wil Myers, the Padres' longest-tenured player. "Excited to see that trio, hopefully in the next week or two."

Tatis could be 10 days to two weeks away from being added to the active roster.

With little protection around him in Washington's lineup, Soto hit .246 with 20 home runs and 45 RBIs and 91 walks in 101 games.

In 2,435 plate appearances since making his Nationals debut in 2018, Soto is batting .291 with 118 home runs and 357 RBIs. He's only a couple of years removed from slugging .695 with a 1.185 OPS and .490 on-base percentage — all NL bests.

Soto becomes the latest Nationals player to be traded as part of the organization's long-term rebuild and with ownership looking to sell the team. Rizzo traded shortstop Trea Turner, ace Max Scherzer, power hitter Kyle Schwarber and five others at the deadline last year, and Washington has let Bryce Harper, Anthony Rendon and others move on in free agency.

The quintet of young players coming from San Diego could join the ones acquired last year — including pitcher Josiah Gray and catcher Keibert Ruiz — as the core of Washington's next contender.

Gore, a 23-year-old left-handed pitcher, had a 1.50 ERA through his first nine starts this year but is now on the injured list with elbow inflammation. Abrams struggled as a fill-in for injured Tatis at shortstop to begin the season, but he's only 21 and has hit .314 at Triple-A.



Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

At Taylor, Ainsley West will study civil engineering but on the floor, she will find herself alternating between small forward and power forward.

## Taylor hoops nab Squires' girls basketball standout Ainsley West

She led Manchester with 12.6 points per game while pulling down 6.3 rebounds

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**  
Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

After a senior season in which Ainsley West led Manchester High School in scoring and rebounds, she now turns her focus to her collegiate career after committing to play basketball for Taylor University this winter.

Heading into her decision to play basketball at Taylor, the family first atmosphere that she gathered from the Trojans was what drew her in first.

"I think the biggest part is that it's not all about basketball. It's also about becoming like a family and it's super united. That kind of resonates a lot with me. ... It will just make it more enjoyable and more than basketball. If I do bad or something, it's not the end of the world. They're still going to be there to back me up. It's a close-knit group."

At Taylor, West will study civil engineering but on the floor, she will find herself alternating between small

forward and power forward.

Either way, West has no problem doing whatever the Trojans ask after playing in multiple positions throughout her time at Manchester.

"Coach has talked to me about using me at the three and stretch four which is pretty much what I did at Manchester but I also feel like I just kind of played any role. It just depended on what was needed in each and every game," she said.

"I like being a three, that's probably my favorite because it's like a guard but still not having to bring up the ball and stuff like that."

With the Squires, West led the team in scoring and rebounding with 12.6 points per game while pulling down 6.3 rebounds a night also.

While West looks to continue to dominate on the

floor, the school's faith-based first approach set itself apart from other suitors.

"The biggest thing for me about the school (Taylor) was just that it was a Christian school," West said. "I visited some schools that weren't and it just kind of didn't feel like I'd be as comfortable there like other schools so I just kind of realized I wanted to be in a Christian environment and have that community."

West's transformation into a bonafide two-way player was the most intriguing aspect of coaching her in her senior campaign said Manchester head coach Allison Kaufman.

"For Ainsley, it was just that improvement in her all-around game," said Kaufmann. "She had a great offensive career but

down the stretch this last year, it was even her defense that was bigger for us in a lot of games. She really start to improve her whole entire game and that was really fun to watch."

While adding that the levels which West can reach moving forward at the next level are endless.

"I'm excited to see her thrive in her position. She had to do a lot because of where we're at but at the college level, she'll be able to really thrive in her position as a guard. ... Especially with her length as a guard at the crossroads league level, I think she can do a lot of damage on that offensive and defensive end."

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